House and Parliament House Annexe only. The details are as under:—

Parliament House (Main Building)

Sub/Officer/Fire Superintendent	1
Leading Fireman	4
Firemen	34

Parliament House Annexe

Leading Firemen	4
Firemen	12

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Defects/Shortcomings in sewage, Drainage and water supply services in Yamuna Vihar at the time of transfer to MCD by DDA

1883. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of taking-over charge of Maintenance of Sewage/drainage and water supply services in Yamuna Vihar, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has communicated defects/ shortcomings to Delhi Development Authority, if so, the details of such defects;

(b) whether the DDA has agreed to pay or had paid any amount to MCD for rectification of these defects; if so, what amount was paid or agreed to be paid;

(c) what is the time schedule for carrying-out rectification works in Yamuna Vihar by MCD; and

(d) whether such defective works have caused hardship and damages to residents of the said area; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The following defects in the sewer lines were communicated by the MCD :—

(i) Different/reverse slope in the lines.

(ii) Sinking of part of sewer lines near the pump well.

Some deficiencies in water supply system were also pointed out.

(b) DDA made on account payment of Rs. 25 lakhs towards repair of sewer lines and has also paid Rs. 4,17,770 for rectification of damaged drains and Rs. 4,60,738 for construction of storm water drains. DDA has also agreed to pay Rs. 4·80 lakhs approx for removing the deficiencies in water supply services.

(c) MCD has formulated proposals (working time about 3 months) for award of work for the repair of 1200 mm dia outfall sewer near Oxidation Pond. The work for construction of damaged drains (working time 2 months) has been awarded The work of construction of storm water drains would depend on removal of encroachments.

(d) Some improvements have been carried out in water supply system and at present, there is no problem of water supply in this colony.

Action against traders responsible for price rise

1884. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALLIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of foodgrains and o ther e

sential commodities have risen during the recent past to an unprecedented level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies has gone on record in his interview with 'The Week' magazine, as published on May 6, 1990, to the effect that statewise unscrupulous traders are responsible for the price rise; and

(c) the number of traders, against whom action under the Law have been initiated during the current year so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) No, Sir There has been a mixed trend in the prices of essential commodities. During the last seven weeks (between 17-3-90 and 5-5-90), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) exhibited a rise in case of some of the essential commodities such as Wheat, Gram, *Arhar*, *Urad*, Potatoes, Tea, *Vanaspati*, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil and Cement; it showed a decline in case of Sugar, Barley, *Ragi*, Eggs, *Atta* and Coconut Oil; and remained steady in case of items like Kerosene, Salt, Mutton and Safety Matches

(b) In an interview with 'The Week' Magazine published on 6-5-90, Minister of Food and Civil Supplies had mentioned that after the presentation of Union Budget 'the general trend is for the traders to raise the price' The price increase according to him was, however, not justified as there were no new taxes on most of the consumer items

(c) Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during the year 1990 till 30-4-1990, 14,842 raids were conducted; 914 persons arrested; 636 persons prosecuted; 164 persons convicted and goods worth Rs. 187·83 lakhs confiscated.

Discouragement from Tobacco Cultivation

1885. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to discourage farmers from tobacco cultivation;

(b) what has been the season-wise production of tobacco during the last two years; and

(c) the details of the incentives, if any, to be provided to the farmers who give up tobacco cultivation and shift to other crops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Of late, Tobacco Board is making efforts to discourage farmers from tobacco cultivation

(b) The production of tobacco for 1987-88 and 1988-89 are as under :

Year	Production (thousand tonnes)
1987-88 . .	367·4*
1988-89 . .	491·4

*Due to bad weather conditions (drought year).

(c) There is no proposal to extend any incentive to growers for giving up tobacco cultivation. However, the State governments will be advised to divert area under tobacco to other crops through their agri-